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## GOVERNORS

July 26, 2005

Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Capitol Room S-128  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Robert C. Byrd  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Capitol Room S-128  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Capitol Room H-218  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable David R. Obey  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Capitol Room H-218  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran:

As you undertake the conference committee meetings on the Fiscal Year 2006 Department of Homeland Security spending bill (HR 2360), we, the governors from the four most populated states, write to express our concerns regarding the distribution of homeland security funding to states.

We are united on the following principles of the distribution of homeland security funding supported by the Administration, the 9/11 Commission, and a bipartisan coalition of Members of Congress. First, funds should be distributed based on the specific threats, vulnerabilities, and consequences faced by each state as determined by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Second, funds should not be diminished by an across the board distribution in the form of state minimums.

We strongly believe that the best option, next to the complete elimination of state minimums, is the Feinstein-Cornyn proposal that would allocate funds based on an analysis of risks, provide each state with a true minimum award of 0.25% of the \$1.9 billion in homeland security funding, and maintain the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant program. A total of 87% of total funds could have been allocated on risk under this amendment.

We cannot support the Senate passed version of HR 2360, encompassing the Collins-Lieberman amendment. The Collins-Lieberman amendment would combine all grants into one funding stream, apply a state minimum of at least 0.55%, and allocate the remaining funds using a confusing formula. A Congressional Research Report (CRS) determined states would receive \$763 million in guaranteed funding, while the department would distribute the remaining \$1.2 billion, only 60%, on the basis of risk and vulnerability.

GOVERNOR GEORGE E. PATAKI  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
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GOVERNOR JEB BUSH  
STATE OF FLORIDA  
The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

GOVERNOR RICK PERRY  
STATE OF TEXAS  
State Capitol  
Austin, TX 78701

GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

We respectfully remind you that distributing funding, based on threat, was a key recommendation by the 9/11 Commission. Although the House-passed version does not reduce the small-state minimum, its use of risk allocation above the base for formula funds and its retention of Urban Areas Security Initiative funding would result in 78% of funds going out on risk. If conference negotiations cannot provide a final bill that gives full consideration to these principles, we urge you to adopt HR 2360 as passed by the House.

We are very appreciative of the efforts you have made to provide fair and proper homeland security funding for all states. Thank you for your consideration of our position.

Sincerely,



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George E. Pataki



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Jeb Bush



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Rick Perry



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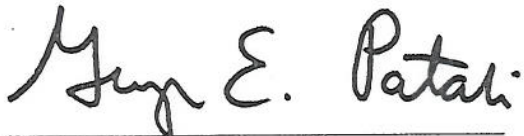
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